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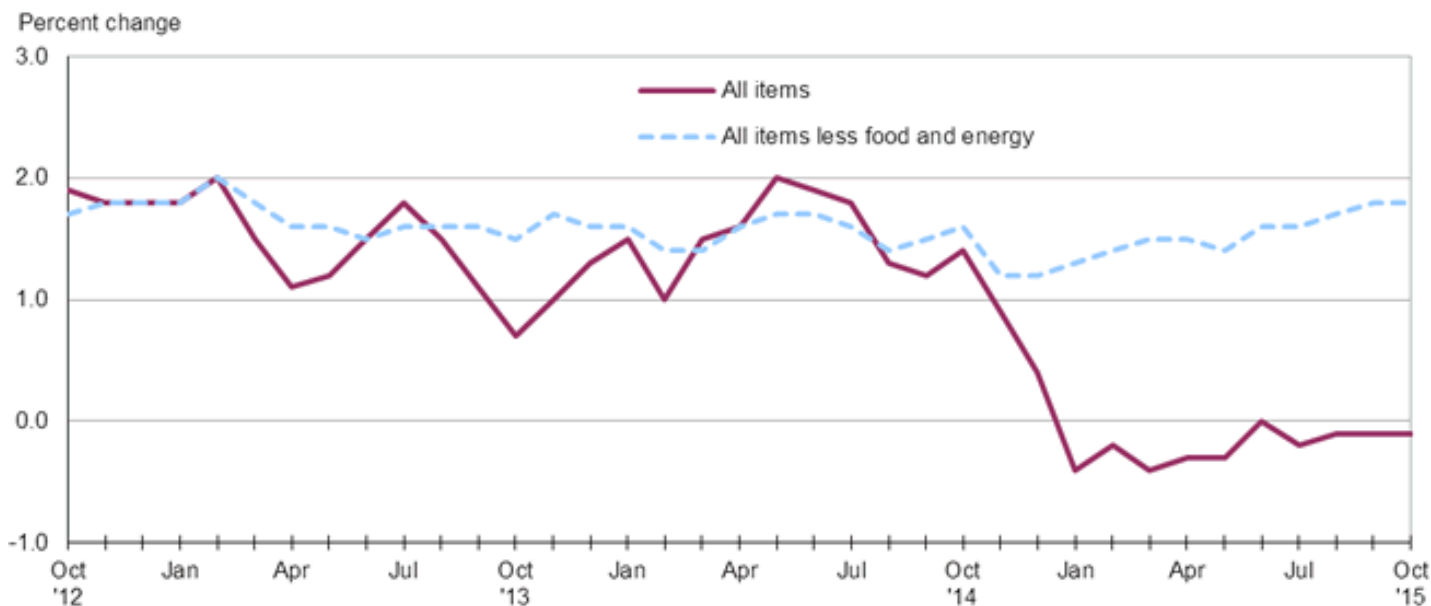
Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region – October 2015

Regional prices down 0.2 percent over the month and 0.1 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast edged down 0.2 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that a 3.6-percent decrease in the energy index was moderated by 0.1-percent increases in both the all items less food and energy index and the food index. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Northeast all items CPI-U inched down 0.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) The energy index fell 19.7 percent over the year, while the all items less food and energy index increased 1.8 percent. Food prices also advanced from October 2014, up 1.3 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Northeast region, October 2012–October 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched up 0.1 percent since September. Food at home prices and food away from home prices also rose 0.1 percent each over the month.

From October 2014 to October 2015, the food index increased 1.3 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.1 percent over the year and those for food at home increased 0.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, decreased 3.6 percent since September. This was led by a 5.3-percent decline in gasoline prices. Electricity and utility (piped) gas service prices also decreased over the month, down 2.6 and 2.5 percent, respectively.

The energy index fell 19.7 percent since October 2014, due almost entirely to a 31.7-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also dropped, down 12.6 percent, while electricity prices increased 0.5 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.1 percent in October, led by higher prices for medical care (0.5 percent) and education and communication (0.3 percent). Lower prices for apparel (-1.1 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (-0.7 percent) moderated the rise in the all items less food and energy index since September.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent, led by higher prices for shelter (2.6 percent). Prices were also higher for several other categories including medical care and education and communication, up 3.0 and 2.1 percent, respectively. Apparel prices were down 1.2 percent over the year; household furnishings and operations prices declined 1.1 percent.

Table A. Northeast region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

| Month | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|----------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month |
| January..... | 0.4 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 2.9 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 1.5 | -0.2 | -0.4 |
| February..... | 0.5 | 2.0 | 0.4 | 2.8 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| March..... | 0.8 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.3 | -0.4 |
| April..... | 0.5 | 2.8 | 0.3 | 2.3 | -0.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| May..... | 0.5 | 3.2 | -0.1 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 2.0 | 0.4 | -0.3 |
| June..... | 0.1 | 3.4 | -0.2 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| July..... | 0.2 | 3.6 | -0.1 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 1.8 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| August..... | 0.3 | 3.8 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 1.5 | -0.3 | 1.3 | -0.2 | -0.1 |
| September..... | 0.1 | 4.0 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| October..... | -0.1 | 3.6 | 0.1 | 1.9 | -0.4 | 0.7 | -0.2 | 1.4 | -0.2 | -0.1 |
| November..... | -0.1 | 3.2 | -0.2 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 1.0 | -0.4 | 0.9 | | |
| December..... | -0.3 | 2.9 | -0.3 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 1.3 | -0.5 | 0.4 | | |

The Consumer Price Index for November 2015 is scheduled to be released Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the

total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.











































The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Northeast region is comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.












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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

| Expenditure category | Indexes | | | | Percent change from | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Historical data | Aug. 2015 | Sep. 2015 | Oct. 2015 | Oct. 2014 | Aug. 2015 | Sep. 2015 |
| All items |  | 252.903 | 252.922 | 252.504 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
| All items (December 1977 = 100) |  | 398.245 | 398.275 | 397.616 | | | |
| Food and beverages |  | 252.060 | 252.559 | 252.759 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Food |  | 252.149 | 252.707 | 252.919 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Food at home |  | 249.021 | 249.251 | 249.465 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Food away from home |  | 259.933 | 260.986 | 261.198 | 2.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Alcoholic beverages |  | 249.726 | 249.465 | 249.500 | 0.7 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Housing |  | 264.975 | 265.767 | 265.348 | 1.3 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| Shelter |  | 326.509 | 327.736 | 327.847 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ |  | 326.086 | 328.146 | 328.864 | 3.1 | 0.9 | 0.2 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ |  | 337.290 | 338.861 | 339.116 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ |  | 337.060 | 338.611 | 338.861 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Fuels and utilities |  | 208.839 | 208.285 | 204.297 | -6.1 | -2.2 | -1.9 |
| Household energy |  | 184.901 | 184.239 | 179.901 | -7.7 | -2.7 | -2.4 |
| Energy services ⁽¹⁾ |  | 185.115 | 184.686 | 179.883 | -2.9 | -2.8 | -2.6 |
| Electricity ⁽¹⁾ |  | 198.006 | 197.596 | 192.385 | 0.5 | -2.8 | -2.6 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾ |  | 144.401 | 143.950 | 140.377 | -12.6 | -2.8 | -2.5 |
| Household furnishings and operations |  | 122.483 | 122.855 | 123.219 | -1.1 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Apparel |  | 131.766 | 135.089 | 133.577 | -1.2 | 1.4 | -1.1 |
| Transportation |  | 201.447 | 197.063 | 194.865 | -8.7 | -3.3 | -1.1 |
| Private transportation |  | 193.503 | 188.944 | 186.260 | -9.5 | -3.7 | -1.4 |
| New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾ |  | 98.407 | 98.191 | 97.504 | -0.7 | -0.9 | -0.7 |
| New vehicles |  | 145.295 | 145.681 | 145.103 | 0.5 | -0.1 | -0.4 |
| New cars and trucks ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾ |  | 100.687 | 100.955 | 100.560 | 0.6 | -0.1 | -0.4 |
| New cars ⁽⁴⁾ |  | 138.007 | 137.675 | 137.195 | 0.1 | -0.6 | -0.3 |
| Used cars and trucks |  | 158.308 | 155.663 | 152.746 | -1.7 | -3.5 | -1.9 |
| Motor fuel |  | 217.280 | 198.489 | 187.946 | -31.7 | -13.5 | -5.3 |
| Gasoline (all types) |  | 216.425 | 197.630 | 187.075 | -31.7 | -13.6 | -5.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾ |  | 214.499 | 194.913 | 184.097 | -32.6 | -14.2 | -5.5 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾ |  | 228.398 | 211.909 | 202.372 | -28.6 | -11.4 | -4.5 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾ |  | 222.643 | 208.779 | 200.149 | -26.1 | -10.1 | -4.1 |
| Medical care |  | 468.451 | 469.086 | 471.457 | 3.0 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Medical care commodities |  | 379.329 | 375.944 | 375.766 | 0.7 | -0.9 | 0.0 |
| Medical care services |  | 493.092 | 495.109 | 498.330 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Professional services |  | 363.222 | 363.152 | 362.999 | 2.2 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Recreation ⁽³⁾ |  | 120.955 | 120.700 | 120.907 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Education and communication ⁽³⁾ |  | 139.296 | 140.674 | 141.127 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 0.3 |
| Other goods and services |  | 452.607 | 452.607 | 454.368 | 2.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | | |
| Commodities |  | 188.337 | 187.271 | 186.071 | -4.2 | -1.2 | -0.6 |
| Commodities less food and beverages |  | 153.193 | 151.497 | 149.744 | -7.8 | -2.3 | -1.2 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages |  | 193.123 | 189.688 | 186.619 | -11.6 | -3.4 | -1.6 |
| Durables |  | 107.112 | 107.057 | 106.580 | -1.1 | -0.5 | -0.4 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

| Expenditure category | Indexes | | | | Percent change from | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Historical data | Aug. 2015 | Sep. 2015 | Oct. 2015 | Oct. 2014 | Aug. 2015 | Sep. 2015 |
| Services..... |  | 315.622 | 316.624 | 316.906 | 2.2 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | | |
| All items less shelter..... |  | 227.776 | 227.339 | 226.717 | -1.5 | -0.5 | -0.3 |
| All items less medical care |  | 243.430 | 243.424 | 242.892 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
| Commodities less food..... |  | 156.728 | 155.069 | 153.363 | -7.4 | -2.1 | -1.1 |
| Nondurables |  | 222.625 | 221.026 | 219.481 | -5.0 | -1.4 | -0.7 |
| Nondurables less food..... |  | 196.408 | 193.166 | 190.287 | -10.8 | -3.1 | -1.5 |
| Services less rent of shelter (2)..... |  | 314.888 | 315.697 | 316.171 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Services less medical care services..... |  | 303.327 | 304.262 | 304.366 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Energy |  | 198.583 | 190.364 | 183.436 | -19.7 | -7.6 | -3.6 |
| All items less energy |  | 260.984 | 261.856 | 262.108 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| All items less food and energy |  | 264.244 | 265.178 | 265.439 | 1.8 | 0.5 | 0.1 |

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.